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Newsletter

Puerto Rico and Canada complete the semifinalists

TIJUANA, Mexico, May 2, 2012 – Puerto Rico and Canada completed the teams in the Final-Four stage of the NORCECA Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament following victories over Costa Rica and Mexico in the quarterfinals at the Tijuana Multi-Sports Gymnasium on Wednesday.

The winners of the competition will secure a ticket to the women's volleyball tournament of the 2012 London Olympic Games. In the first match of the day, Puerto Rico dispatched Costa Rica in three sets by scores of 25-12, 25-12, 25-9 and Canada followed with a 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 25-18) victory over the young home team.

In Friday's semifinals, Puerto Rico will play Cuba while Dominican Republic meets Canada. In the elimination for the 5-8 positions, Honduras goes against Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago takes on Mexico.

Three teams from Pool A –Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Canada- made it into the final-four round so the match between the highest and lowest ranking in the preliminary phase must be repeated according to regulations.

Puerto Rico v Costa Rica

Puerto Rico advanced to a semifinal match against Cuba after outclassing Costa Rica in straight sets (25-12, 25-12, 25-9) on Wednesday at Tijuana Multi-Sports Gymnasium. Puerto Rico's Coach David Aleman used all his players with the exception of middle blocker Jetzabel Del Valle en route to the easy victory in exactly one hour. The gap between the two teams was especially wide in the aces department with the winners scoring 13 aces against only 3 by the losers. Puerto Rico also out-blocked the opponents 8-4. Sarai Alvarez and Yarimar Rosa were the two best scorers of the winners with 15 and 11 points respectively. Stephanie Enright and Shanon Torregrosa each contributed 8 points.

Canada v Mexico

Canada downed Mexico in straight sets (25-17, 25-18, 25-18) to reach the semifinal phase where they will meet world No. 9 Dominican Republic next Friday. It was a well fought match but the taller Canadians capitalized on their size to out-block their opponents 8-3. Both teams served two aces and made the same total of errors with 18. The Mexicans battled point by point with good defense but

couldn't find ways to stop Canada's prolific point-producer Sarah Pavan. The lefty Pavan led all the scorers in the match with 21 points, all via attacks, while Marisa Field and Tammy Mahon added 8 and 7 respectively. Claudia Rios was the best of Mexico with 12 points.

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